

Plan for 1997 Spring Export Reduction and Corresponding Make-up

To: Robert Potter and Lowell Ploss
CALFED Ops Group, Co-Chairs

From: Michael Mantell and Patrick Wright
CALFED Management Team, Co-Chairs

Date: April 25, 1997

This letter summarizes decisions of the CALFED Management Team (Management Team) at its meetings on April 11 and April 21, 1997. The Management Team agreed and intends to implement a proposed Operation Plan (Plan) which incorporates Delta export reductions at State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) facilities during the San Joaquin River pulse flow from mid-April through mid-May and ramping up from mid-May. A numerical description of the Plan is attached. Portions of the Plan may require State Water Resources Control Board approval, and the Plan may be further refined by the Management Team.

The Plan provides for deliveries of 1997 CVP and SWP allocations made by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) on April 17, 1997, and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on February 11, 1997, and is based on 75% hydrology from October through March. The Management Team recognizes the critical nature of the San Luis Reservoir operations this summer and is committed to work with the appropriate parties to assure that allocated supplies can be delivered without interruption. Intensive monitoring of this situation will be required to support the early identification and implementation of necessary measures.

The operational objective of the first measure is to provide San Joaquin River flows of 5,700 cfs at Vernalis and reduce combined exports to 2,250 cfs, consistent with the Delta smelt biological opinion on OCAP dated March 6, 1995, and the no-net-loss provision of the Delta Accord. In addition, ramping up of exports will occur during the last half of May and is needed to help keep incidental take within the limits of the biological opinion; ramping up is intended to benefit other fishery resources as well. If incidental take limits of Delta smelt under the biological opinion are exceeded, actions will be taken to reduce take, such as an export reduction to 1500 cfs or removal of the Old River barrier, with appropriate protective measures, if salmon protection is not needed.

The water supply impacts of the pulse flow actions are expected to be recovered under the no-net-loss provision of the Delta Accord; likewise, the impacts of ramping up are expected to result in no water supply impact. Should conditions worsen, CALFED will

evaluate other measures to achieve the objectives. All measures will be considered, including measures under the CVPIA. Should conditions improve, any relaxations to the water quality standards, outflow requirements, instream requirements, and export/inflow standards in the Plan will be minimized.

Based on current operation forecasts, in comparison with the Delta Accord as a base, the estimated export impact of the spring pulse operation including ramping is 170,000 acre-feet. A final accounting of the foregone pumping will be available within 30 days following the pulse.

The Management Team is committed to working cooperatively in an effort to protect the estuary while enabling the Projects to recover foregone pumping. To recover the export impacts through reoperation of the CVP and SWP facilities, BOR and DWR will utilize the tools available within their existing authorities, including those available under the provisions of the State Water Resources Control Board's WR 95-6, the Delta Accord, and the CALFED process. Examples of the tools that may be available to BOR and DWR to implement water recovery operations are:

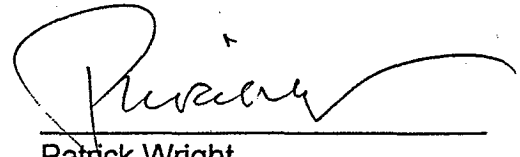
- Transfer of water from upstream reservoirs to San Luis Reservoir.
- Reoperation of upstream reservoirs to recover storage drawdown.
- Joint point of diversion as described in WR 95-6.
- Adjustment of Delta standards.
- Realtime monitoring of operations, species population, and distribution.
- CVPIA actions.

The Plan will be updated at least monthly and as necessary in response to changes in hydrology, take of fish at the export facilities, fishery biological needs, and the suitability of modifying standards and requirements. BOR and DWR will submit the Plan to the State Water Resources Control Board, and updates will be reported to the State Water Resources Control Board, the CALFED Ops Group (Ops Group), and the Ops No-Name Group.

The water recovery operations should be guided by the CALFED process outlined in the Delta Accord and the decision process developed for the Ops Group also contained in the Delta Accord. This will allow for an open exchange of ideas and proposals in coordinating project operations and actions to benefit fish species.

The Management Team recognizes that in the fall of 1997 other actions necessary to protect fish may be taken consistent with the Delta Accord and CVPIA requirements and in consultation with the CALFED agencies. The actions taken for this year's operations

will not constrain long-term policy decisions. The long-term policy will provide certainty and stability in future years. The Management Team intends to implement the attached Plan, consistent with the no-net-loss provision of the Delta Accord, and subject to approval, as needed, by the State Water Resources Control Board.


Michael Mantell
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Attachment

cc: CALFED Management Team
CALFED Ops No-Name Group